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REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated allowance of claims 1 through 16, 19 through 25, 27

and 29 through 50. However, the Examiner has objected to claims 17 and 18.

Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claims 26, 28, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §101

for non-statutory subject matter. In view of the following remarks, the Applicant

respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending objections and rejections.

The Claim Objection

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to remove the informality in which the

claim number for claim 18 was accidentally left at the end of claim 17. Accordingly, the

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the pending objections.

The Section 101 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 26, 28, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for

non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has kindly referred to the relevant section of

the MPEP for guidance. Accordingly, the above rejected claims have been amended in

the attempt to overcome the non-statutory subject matter rejections.

As the Examiner has indicated, the last paragraph in IV.B.1(a) on page 2100-13 of

§2100 in the MPEP states that "[w]hen a computer program is claimed in a process where

the computer is executing the computer program's instructions, Office personnel should

treat the claim as a process claim." However, the above paragraph also refers to certain

condition in paragraph IV.B.2(b) on page 2100-15. According to the paragraph

IV.B.2(b), "[t]o be statutory, a claimed computer-related process must be either: (A)

result in a physical transformation outside the computer for which a practical application

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in the technological arts in either disclosed in the specification or would have been

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known to a skilled artisan ..., or (B) be limited to a practical application within the

technological arts (discussed in (ii) below). In the currently pending claims, the result is

"a physical transformation outside the computer" since the corrected image data is

printed on image recording sheets. Furthermore, even if the printed matter is not

considered as physical transformation, a claimed computer-related process is limited to a

practical application within the technological arts. On page 2100-18, it is stated that "[a]

claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed, produce a

concrete, tangible and useful result." That is, "the method recites a step or act of

producing something that is concrete, tangible and useful." According to amended

independent claims 26, 28, 51 and 52, the draft image input is "corrected" to generate

corrected image data which has produced "concrete, tangible and useful" results. Thus,

the Applicant respectfully submits to the Examiner that amended claims 26, 28, 51 and

52 now contain statutory subject matter.

For the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw

the pending rejections of claims 26, 28, 51 and 52.

Amendments to Allowed Claims

The Applicant voluntarily amended the allowed claims to clarify the subject

matter without modifying the scope of the already allowed claims. The claim

amendments are made to eliminate informalities or further clarify the subject matter

limitations. Since these claim amendments do not change the allowed scope, the

Applicant believes that no further search is warranted. Thus, allowed claims 1 through

16, 19 through 25, 27 and 29 through 50 should remain allowed.

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Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and attachments, the Applicants respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,

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